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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9335

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 8609

SUBJECT: EL TIEMPOSE

BOGOTA) REACTION TO POST ARTICLE

REF: STATE 210051

1. PRESENCIA AND HOY DECEMBER 30 QUOTE EXCERPTS FROM BOGOTA'S EL TIEMPO EDITORIAL OF DECEMBER 29 TO EFFECT THAT OVANDO'S DRIFT TO EXTREME LEFT AND COMMUNISM CAN LEAD "TO CUBANIZATION OF BOLIVIA." EDITORIAL REPORTEDLY BASED ON WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE (REFTEL). EL TIEMPO REPORT WAS COMMENTED THAT OVANDO IS "UNDERTAKING DEMAGOGIC MANUEVERS" TO FIND WAY OUT OF "GREAT AND MANY PROBLEMS"; EDITORIAL REPORTEDLY CALLED THIS "GAME" EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND STATED BOLIVIA'S PROBLEMS CANNOT BE SOLVED BY RESORT TO ANTI-AMERICAN NATIONALISM NOR BY DRIFT TO EXTREME LEFT. SUCH POLICY, IT CONCLUDED, WOULD MAKE OVANDO A HOSTAGE TO THOSE WHO "SEE IN HIS POLICY AN EXCELLENT CHANCE TO DEAL ANOTHER BLOW TO CONTINENTAL DEMOCRACY."

2. COMMENT: THE TIEMPO COMMENT MARKS FIRST REACTION FROM A LATIN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER TO BE REPRINTED IN LIEPAZ PRESS WHICH RELATES (INDIRECTLY) TO SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ADVISOR PAT HOLT'S RECENT VISIT TO BOLIVIA AND THE RESULTANT WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE. LEFT-WING JORNADA DSBEMBER 29 IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE BATTLE IS WAGED ABROAD" ADDED A NEW TWIST TO THE "GULF-CIA" BUGABOO BY ACCUSING THE BOLIVIAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF INACTION IN THE

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FACE OF AN ALLEGED PROPAGANDA WAR LAUNCHED AGAINST BOLIVIA
FROM ABROAD BY "AMERICAN PUBLICITY CONSORTIA AND A CERTAIN
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY." WHILE THE ARTICLE PINPOINTED "GULF
OIL AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES" AS THE ORGANIZERS OF THE ALLEGED
DEFAMATION CAMPAIGN, THE EDITORIAL WRITER REFRAINED
FROM MENTIONING "CIA" BY NAME. WHETHER THIS MARKS BEGINNING
OF "PHASE-OUT" ON PRESS ATTACKS AS PROMISED BY GOVERNMENT
MINISTER AYOROA (LA PAZ 8588) REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
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